



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biotechnology (BBT)
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	1/9/2021 until 25/2/2022
Country (exchange)	Italy
City (exchange)	Siena
University (exchange)	Universita degli Studi di Siena
Faculty (exchange)	Biotechnologie, Chimica e Farmacia

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To live in another country and experience life there

What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

It was the only university in Italy available to me where I could study in my field (biotechnology) in English instead of Italian

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

Cheap RyanAir flights are available from Eindhoven to for example Pisa and then you can take the train. You can also fly to Florence but these are a bit more expensive.

4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Clinical Microbiology	6	You learn about a lot of bacteria, the diseases they cause and antibiotics	4	
2	Clinical Virology	5	You learn about all the mechanisms in which viruses operate and disseminate	4	
3	Advanced Bacterial Genetics	6	You learn about the evolution of genetic elements of viruses and bacteria	3	
4	Bioinformatics and Systems Biology	7	You learn how to describe biological systems in a mathematical way and translate it into python	5	
5	Nucleic Acid Detection and Analysis	5	You learn about a wide variety of techniques used to map DNA and RNA	3	
6					

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

You only have lectures to attend. In my case the lectures could also be watched remotely because of COVID. The Bioinformatics course also required practice using python. Half the exams were oral and the other half multiple choice.

What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

Lecturers are very approachable although they do not always reacts quickly as they find themselves swamped with emails. Engagement with other students for me was low as a lot of them lived in surrounding cities, outside Siena.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

Sports are available but due to COVID a lot of the teams were disbanded. Also the sports facilities are a bit difficult to reach if you do not have your own means of transport (bike/car). All university buildings had a mensa where you can have a really good lunch and diner for only 4/5 euro. They do tend to be a bit busy during lunch.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)

You can take a university room, but these were all shared and I heard a lot of negative stories about them. I rented my room which I found via Facebook and lived with other students in a nice historical building.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

Its Italian, so you can imagine. Everything starts late in the evening as diner is late.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

In Siena I paid about 400eu for my room.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

There is no public transport in the city center itself, but around in the rest of Siena you have busses and a train station. Busses to other cities are usually cheaper than the train (Itabus, Flixbus). You can probably walk to your university.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Nearby cities like Florence, Rome and in Siena the paleo.

What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?

Everything's pretty much in the travel guides.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

ESN organises a lot of stuff and try to visit some other cities.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Finding a room can be hard.

What was your best memory abroad?

Making new friends.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail		